

South Plains Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

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November 1, 2017

TO: SPEMS EMS Services

SUBJECT: SPEMS PARAMEDIC PROTOCOL VARIANCE

With the ongoing medication shortages, Valium may be unavailable.

Please let this letter serve as your authority to utilize the below variation until Valium is available from your supplier.

If Valium is unavailable, ONE of the following procedures will be followed:

Option 1: Use of Ativan (Lorazepam):

For all protocols which state "Valium", substitute Ativan

- **Adult Dosage:** 2mg, IV Push. Repeat every 5 minutes until seizure is suppressed or a total of 10mg administered
- **Pediatric Dosage:** 0.05 to 0.1mg/kg to a maximum of 2mg. Repeat every 5 minutes until seizure is suppressed

NOTE: The storage and/or replacement of Ativan MUST be in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation (refrigerate or replace as recommended by the manufacturer)

Option 2: Use of Versed:

For all protocols which state "Valium", substitute Versed

- **Dosage for patients >12 and <65 y/o:** 2.5 mg IV
- **Dosage for patients >65:** 1.5 mg IV (may give 1 additional mg in 2-3 min. if needed)
- **Dosage for patients 2 month to 12 y/o:** 0.15 mg/kg IV up to a max of 2.5 mg
- **If seizures are not controlled following administration of Versed, notify medical direction for additional orders.**

This is a temporary variance and strictly to be used when Valium is unavailable from the supplier and you are in short supply.

So long as the shortage continues, services selecting Option 1 may replace Valium with Ativan on the MICU Medication List and must maintain a stock of at least 20mg of Ativan.

Services selecting Option 2 may remove Valium from the MICU Medication list; as long as the shortage continues.

This variance will remain in effect until Valium is available once again from the manufacturer.

You will need to place a copy of this letter in each protocol book in each ambulance.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Addington II, D.O.
Medical Director